

MEDICAL STUDENT DUAL ROLE POLICY

Conflict of Interest- Physician/Patient “Dual Relationship” Between MCW Faculty and Students

The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for interactions between MCW faculty and students, to ensure that students receiving treatment as a patient of a caregiver/provider are not evaluated by such provider, whether a faculty member, fellow or resident physician, in an academic setting. A “dual relationship” occurs when a clinician provides professional services to a person with whom the clinician has another relationship such as, but not limited to, relatives, close friends, employees or employers, students, or other supervisees (Adapted from Wisconsin State Statute Psy 1.02). MCW seeks to ensure that integrity of medical student education is not compromised by a provider’s “dual relationship” and to minimize even the appearance of improper influence on academic decision-making. MCW believes that this policy will enhance positive and constructive relationships between faculty and students.

Elimination of conflict of interest is a shared responsibility of both the student and the provider. The following procedures are utilized to ensure that clinical providers do not academically evaluate medical students:

Assignment of Students: Academic Role

Phase 1

- Primarily lecture-based courses with an evaluative component will not be primarily instructed by faculty whose clinical practice (if any) includes routine treatment of medical students.
- Faculty caregivers may present isolated lectures to the student body, provided that there is no direct evaluation and/or personal contact with a student who is receiving treatment by the faculty caregiver.

Phase 1 Small-Group Instruction

- Students are assigned to small group courses by the Administrator for Medical Student Education.
- After assignment, should the student or instructor (faculty/fellow/resident) identify a dual relationship, re-assignment should be requested from the Administrator for Medical Student Education; Students requesting reassignment need not disclose PHI or other records of the patient relationship.

The Administrator for Medical Student Education will promptly reassign any student upon request under this policy.

Phase 2 and Phase 3

- Students are assigned to a clerkship experience by the Medical Student Education Administrator.
- After assignment, should the student or instructor (faculty/fellow/resident) identify a dual relationship, re-assignment should be requested. The Medical Student Education Administrator shall reassign the student, preferably to a different site.

OTHER

- A faculty member serving on the Academic Standing and Professionalism Committee (ASPC) will recuse themselves when academic decision-making is required on a student with whom they have a dual relationship.
- A faculty member serving on an awards committee will recuse themselves when a student, with whom they have a dual relationship, is being evaluated for an academic award.

Assignment of Students: Patient Role

- When being scheduled to a provider for care, students should request re-assignment to another provider.
 - If they have had a previous non-clinical relationship with the provider.
 - Should an error have occurred in the scheduling process, the provider should seek to transfer the student's care as soon as it is practicable.

Signing Off on Evaluations

Prior to signing off on an academic evaluation, faculty make an attestation that they do not have a conflict of interest.

Retaliation Prohibited: MCW strictly prohibits any form of retribution or retaliatory behavior. Students are free to request reassignment without fear of reprisal. Likewise, provider requests for patient reassignment should be honored by the student.

Last reviewed and approved by José Franco, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Education on 5/12/2025